**I’m Not Scared – by Niccolo Ammaniti.**The novel takes place in 1978 in a fictional town called Acqua Traverse in Southern Italy during the hottest summer of the century. A ten year old, Michele and a group of his friends ride their bikes across the scorching wheat fields in a race. Whoever comes last must pay a forfeit. The leader of the group, Skull, chooses Barbara to pay a nasty forfeit, but Michele volunteers to do it because he technically came last. Michele is ordered to climb through a crumbling old house and in doing so, discovers a hole in the ground covered by a sheet of corrugated iron and a mattress. After removing the cover he discovers a boy who is barely alive.  
Michele returns home and worries about his discovery. He decides to visit the boy in the hole again and climbs down to talk to him. Sadly, the boy is filthy, undernourished and so emotionally damaged that he is delusional. His name is Filippo, the son of wealthy northern Italian parents who has been kidnapped for ransom money. Michele doesn’t know all of the facts yet, but because Filippo is his own age and he feels sorry for him, he decides to bring him food and water. As the weeks go by, Michele pieces the story together and realises that his adored father is one of the kidnappers and he is devastated. He decides to continue to visit and support Filippo and eventually, is caught by Skull’s older brother, Felice. The game is up.  
The novel ends with Michele attempting to rescue Filippo and getting into trouble himself. The police helicopters arrive, and the drama escalates - the ending is left to the readers’ interpretation.